

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I had the great honor and privilege of appearing before the House Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policies to share with them my thoughts on the historical legacy of Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

And yet perhaps a greater honor to me was listening to the eloquent words of Caspar Weinberger, Jeane Kirkpatrick, Peggy Noonan, and Martin Anderson. These close friends and trusted colleagues of the Reagans reflected on the dedication of our 40th President and his wife Nancy to our great Nation.

Even the former leader of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev, submitted a letter to the subcommittee expressing his deep respect for former President Ronald Reagan.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be the sponsor of H.R. 3591, a bill to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Ronald and Nancy Reagan. Currently, this bill has approximately 280 cosponsors. It is a bipartisan effort to bestow a fitting tribute on the Reagans in recognition to their dedication and commitment to public service and to our country.

I encourage all of my colleagues to become cosponsors of H.R. 3591 and join me in saying "thank you" to the Reagans for dedicating so much of their lives to the people of the United States.

U.S. BORDER IS WIDE OPEN

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the border is wide open. Heroin and cocaine are coming across the border at, listen to the report, "record volumes." And nobody is doing anything about it.

Now, look, when a 10-year-old kid can get heroin as easily as he can get aspirin, something is dangerously wrong with America.

It is time to secure our homeland, time to secure our borders; and we cannot do that with the neighborhood crime watch. It is time to use the military.

My colleagues, I yield back the failed national drug strategy that we have in effect.

By the way, the victims are our own street kids. There is no war on drugs.

CENSUS 2000

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Census 2000 is underway. If my colleagues have not received their form, they will receive it shortly. Please complete that form and send it back as

soon as possible. It is so important for this country and our own communities because so much money flows from Washington and our State capitals based on the population of our area. Whether it is health care or education or roads or sewers, it is so important.

Unfortunately, the minority yesterday started playing politics with the census again. And that is unfortunate, because there is no substitute for counting people. The sampling issue was settled by the Supreme Court over a year ago. And they could not have picked a worse day of a worse week to bring up the issue and to undermine response for the census, and that is indeed sad.

Everyone counts, black or white, Hispanic, Asian, young or old. Everyone counts in this country. Please complete this form and send it back today.

CHILD GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

(Ms. DEGETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, in less than one week, it will be a whole year since the school shooting in Jonesboro, Arkansas. And almost exactly one month later will mark the 1-year anniversary of the tragedy at Columbine High School just outside my district.

A month after that, a whole year will have gone by since the Senate passed their version of child gun safety legislation.

Mr. Speaker, what has been done here in the House? The sad answer is, nothing. We have done nothing to protect our citizens, to protect our families, and most importantly, to protect our children.

When is this House going to stand up against the gun violence being perpetrated against our children? When are we going to stand up for the safety of our families?

This Congress will be judged for as much as what it does not do as what it does. And, Mr. Speaker, it has not gone unnoticed by the public that we have done nothing to protect them from the horrific gun violence that continues to pollute our proud country.

The very least this House can do is pass common sense child gun safety legislation and pass it now.

HOW TO COME TO AGREEMENT ON THE BUDGET

(Ms. PRYCE of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, many people ask me, How can you come to agreement on a budget with the President whose vision for America is so different from your own?

That is a fair question. And the answer is, with much difficulty.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that the Democrats and the Republicans have honest fundamental differences in our views of the role of government in our lives. It is no secret that the Democrats want government to have a greater role in our lives and Republicans think that the government role is already far too great.

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It is no secret that Democrats want to increase the size and power of government. Republicans want to reduce them. It is no secret that the Democrats think that more government can help solve the problem of poverty. Republicans think that far from ending poverty, government welfare programs perpetuate it.

Mr. Speaker, we have disagreements on matters of principle, but the American people have asked us to work together on our country's budget. Let us go forward and carry out their wishes.

Next week we will have that very opportunity.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, March is Women's History Month, a time to reflect on the contributions that women have made to our heritage, but today I want to talk about how we here in Congress can actually make history for women.

The United States can make a difference in women's lives all around the world by ratifying CEDAW, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Right now the United States is the only industrialized democracy in the world that has not ratified CEDAW. That is a disgrace.

Currently, the treaty is being held hostage in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where one man refuses to bring CEDAW forward for a vote in the Senate. Even though our colleagues in the other body must act to ratify CEDAW, we in the House can make a difference and we can make a difference by signing H. Res. 107, which calls on the Senate to take immediate action on CEDAW.

One of the most important lessons, Mr. Speaker, that we can teach the world during this Women's History Month is that the United States is truly committed to protecting women's rights.

THE PRACTICE OF USING HUMAN FETAL TISSUE FOR RESEARCH MUST BE STOPPED

(Mr. RYUN of Kansas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, we should stop the practice of using human fetal tissue for research and for commerce, and we should certainly stop subsidizing its industry.

Although researchers profess to have the best intentions, this utilitarian view of human life cheapens the lives and dignity of all human beings. There has been substantial evidence to prove that some profit-oriented physicians have induced women to get abortions with the goal of trafficking those body parts of the deceased.

Private companies, institutions, and even public universities are buying and selling baby organs. This business of trafficking human flesh includes order forms for specific organs, detailed dissection orders, graphic brochures, and price lists for whole-body parts.

I feel that it is time to stop this appalling practice of human embryo and fetal tissue experimentation, and continue our legal role as protectors and healers of the born and pre-born. To make the destruction of our children's bodies into a money-making business is horrific and unconscionable and it must stop.

TAX CUTS THAT THREATEN TO BUST THE BUDGET ARE NOT NEEDED

(Mr. SHERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, we are now enjoying and have enjoyed for several years the fruits of fiscal responsibility but that fiscal responsibility was put at risk yesterday in the Committee on the Budget, where that committee approved huge tax cuts that threaten to bust the budget and endanger Social Security and Medicare.

Earlier this month, we found out what types of tax cuts we were endangering our prosperity to finance, because this House passed not an increase in the earned income tax credit, not an increase in the standard deduction, no tax relief for working Americans but, rather, a huge tax cut where three-quarters of the benefit went to the top 1 percent of wealthiest Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the question in game show language seems to be, not who wants to be a millionaire or who wants to marry a multimillionaire but who wants to give huge tax cuts to multimillionaires. It is time to return to fiscal responsibility.

BLACK PRESS DAY

(Mr. TERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today on the occasion of Black Press Day. March 16 is the anniversary

of the publication of the first black-owned newspaper in the United States.

On this date in 1827, the first edition of Freedom's Journal rolled off the press and on to the streets of New York City. I borrow from the Newspaper Publishers Association when I recite the credo of the Black Press. The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonism when it accords to every person, regardless of race, color or creed, full human and legal rights. Hating no person, fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.

There is no better example of this credo than in my own district in Nebraska. The Omaha Star is one of the Nation's most renowned black-owned newspapers. We owe a special debt of gratitude to the pioneers of the Omaha Star, both past and present, who lead the fight for acceptance of all races.

So on behalf of all Nebraskans, I say to the people of Omaha Star, thank you.

WHAT HAVE WE BECOME AS A NATION?

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, in The Washington Post this morning there is an article on the front here talking about California, how the California Motor Vehicle Division rescinded a license plate because it mentions the Washington Redskins football team. It says that the license was offensive. Somebody apparently complained.

In California, taxpayers support the Motor Vehicle Department and therefore a single government-issued license plate depicting a football team is offensive and serious and intolerable; but in New York, obscuring the image of Mary, the mother of God, with animal feces and obscenities, well, that is just art we are told.

After all, taxpayers are obligated to subsidize art. Those like me who are offended by a government attack on our religion, we are told to lighten up.

Never let it be said, Mr. Speaker, that America lacks for vision, faith and decisiveness and courage when it comes to football and license plates.

Mr. Speaker, what have we become? Hail Mary, indeed. O, mother of the word incarnate, despise not my petition but in thy mercy herein answer me. Amen.

TAIWAN ELECTIONS AND CHINA

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, China has done it again. Yesterday,

Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji threatened violence against Taiwan because it is holding free elections. He said to the people of Taiwan, "Do not act with impulse at this juncture. Otherwise, I am afraid you will not get another opportunity to regret."

This Chinese dictatorship condones forced abortions, engages in religious persecution against Christians and Muslims and Buddhists, has institutionalized slave labor and child labor. Even attempting to form an independent labor union in China is an offense punishable by death.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has been promised over and over that free market capitalism will create a more democratic and less hostile China. Yet, after 10 years of U.S. engagement with China, that nation remains a nation ruled by an authoritarian government with a violent aversion to human rights and a hostility to environment and labor standards.

What makes anyone think the next 10 years will be different? There are more corporate jets at Reagan National Airport during congressional debate on China every year than at any time during the year. A WTO deal for China is more about gaining access to a billion workers than it is a billion consumers. Vote no on permanent NTR.

TRUCKERS PLAY A VITAL PART IN AMERICA'S COMMERCE

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, today hundreds of truckers mount a demonstration in the Nation's capital.

America's truckers are a vital part of our economy. Truckers deliver the food we eat, the clothes we wear, and the materials used to build our homes. Unfortunately, for the past several months, truckers have been hit by rising gas and diesel prices. These outrageous fuel prices are threatening the livelihood of thousands of truckers across the United States, which is the reason for their demonstration today.

When truckers cannot afford to fill their tanks, they will be forced off the road. Without trucking, commerce in our Nation would be ground to a halt.

With gas and diesel prices expected to continue rising through the summer, even a greater number of truckers are going to be threatened. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson has admitted that the Clinton-Gore administration was asleep at the wheel when it comes to gas and diesel prices.

Now the American people must unfortunately foot the bill for the Clinton-Gore failure.